

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02923 300925Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----036924 302038Z /50

R 300840Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5599
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2923

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XF, LE, JO, US
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING BRIEFING ON BEGIN VISIT, I HAD CHANCE
TO MENTION TO KING HUSSEIN BRIEFLY U.S. EFFORTS REGARDING
SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION AND LATER ALSO MADE SIMILAR POINTS
AT SOCIAL FUNCTION TO COURT CHIEF SHARAF AND LT.GEN. BIN SHAKER.

2. I MENTIONED THAT WE ARE PRESSING FOR
FURTHER ACTION REGARDING ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS FOLLOWING RECENT
THINNING OUT OF IDF. I ALSO MENTIONED OUR BELIEF THAT
MOST PRESSING IMMEDIATE NEED, AFTER YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF CEASEFIRE, IS FOR SOME UNITS AT LEAST OF LEBANESE
ARMY AND SECURITY FORCES TO BEGIN TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY
TO SOUTH LEBANON AND TO WORK WITH UNIFIL TO RE-ASSERT
LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY, AND THAT U.N. WITH OUR ENCOURAGE-
MENT AND HELP IS GIVING EXTENSIVE THOUGHT TO
DETAILED MEANS OF TRANQUILLIZING AND BRINGING STABILITY
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TO SOUTH LEBANON.

3. I MENTIONED TO SHARAF AND BIN SHAKER
GENERAL FRAGILITY OF SITUATION IN LEBANON AND GOL'S AND
OUR OWN CONCERNS TO KEEP OUT MEN AND MATERIAL THAT COULD
UPSET SITUATION. I ASKED IF THEY FELT ANY OF THE RECENT
JORDANIAN VOLUNTEERS MIGHT BE IN THAT CATEGORY. BIN

SHAKER SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE MORE THAN A FEW OF THE
JORDANIAN VOLUNTEERS WERE OF TYPE TO WISH SERIOUSLY TO
ENGAGE IN FIGHTING, IF INDEED THEY EVER ENDED UP IN
LEBANON AT ALL. BIN SHAKER AND SHARAF BOTH EMPHASIZED
NEED FOR A SPEEDY ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AS A WAY OF
AVOIDING FURTHER DETERIORATION OF LEBANESE SECURITY,
BUT ACKNOWLEDGED PRACTICAL PROBLEMS FOR UNIFIL AND
LEBANESE FORCES ON THE GROUND.
SUDDARTH

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NNN

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TAGS: PEPR, XF, LE, JO, US, (HUSSEIN I), (SUDDARTH, ROSCOE S)
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